

January 30, 2011

To whom it may concern:
Butte County Supervisors:

US Bureau of Reclamation

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY REMOVED	
FEB 11 2011	
SURNAME & DATE	
410	✓

My name is Robert C. Eberhardt. I am a local x-ray technologist and almond farmer. I live in the Dayton four corners area. I have several concerns which I would like addressed prior to any decisions made regarding transfers of water south.

1. My biggest concern is the fact that there has not been an adequate long term environmental impact report on recharge rate, contamination, and long term depletion of our aquifer.

2. If you know anything about hydraulics you would know you can-not compress water. The water in the aquifer holds the valley floor up and over pumping the aquifer would eventually cause the valley to sink, along with the levees. Who is going to build up the levees, (say 10 years from now, if that happens?)

3. Water companies in the past have suggested infusing the aquifer with surface water in exchange for allowing them to pump the aquifer in dry years. The problem with this is, by doing so, you risk contaminating the water in the aquifer. The water company that infused it can lay-claim to it. (All of it!) Not only will the farmers have to pay pg&e to pump the water, they would also have to pay the water company who infused it. (Say good-bye to our god given water rights under our farms!)

4. Wells dug deeper than the existing surrounding wells could cause a collapse of the system, resulting in dry wells. Deeper wells would take the water from the farmer who utilizes the water nearer the surface.

On site farmers basically just recycles their water. What doesn't evaporate goes back into the aquifer through percolation. If you put that same amount of water in a ditch and ship it south, none of it goes back to recharge the aquifer. The math is different.

5. We need accountability of how much water is currently being sent south and by whom. We also need to have the names of all standing in line. We need names of individuals, ranches or corporations involved in selling our water and meters put on all wells pumping for export. There are meters on the other end, its only fair that meters are on our side too.

It was said that in 1994 water exports was believed to cause wells in the Durham area to go dry. When confronted with the news, the water exporters said (prove to us we are to blame).

6. No long term contracts. If anyone in the point of origin area develops problems with

Classification	1R5-2300
Project	214
Control No.	11011024
Date Input & Initials	114.8013
	2-11-2011

water levels or excessive water drops we need to pull the plug immediately on all water exports until the problem is solved. (local farmers need assurances in writing.)

7.The water under our feet belongs to everyone in the origin in which it is located. No one person, farm, company or corporation should be allowed to lay claim to it. As it seems to stand now anyone who owns property next to a ditch ,river , canal or creek simply takes it, pumps it and sells to the highest bidder.(or so they would like) We need to pass a county ordinance requiring any water sold off site goes directly to county coffers and nothing is sold below what the homeowners in the south state are paying for water.

I am against transferring water south. It is bad for the local farmer, it is bad for the local economy. I would prefer to keep it here for our children and our children's children.

Buying water in small plastic bottles in grocery stores will cost you about 10 dollars a gallon, so why are we in such a hurry to give it away. Water is the foundation of all living things and the big water companies and their attorneys are working 24/7 under the cover of silence, quietly trying to pass laws and long term contracts to further quench their greedy thirst.

I don't mind sharing things with people in need so long as it doesn't jeopardize my livelihood and the our entire way of life we so enjoy in the north state If water must be sold let butte county profit and balance their books. Not line the pockets of (out of town) big water and their cronies.

Robert C Eberhardt

Chico

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Veronese, Gina
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 9:28 AM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: Comments on water transfer from northern CA to Delta and SFBA

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 8:19 AM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina; Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: FW: Comments on water transfer from northern CA to Delta and SFBA

Comments for record.

From: Gail Goodyear [mailto:ggoodyear@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 4:23 PM
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Subject: Comments on water transfer from northern CA to Delta and SFBA

Brad Hubbard
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP 410
Sacramento CA 95825

Dear Brad,

I request notification of all future meetings and opportunities to comment on any proposed project that will transfer water from water agencies in northern California to water agencies south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

These are my preliminary comments regarding the proposal by The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority propose to prepare a joint EIS/EIR to analyze the effects of water transfers from water agencies in northern California to water agencies south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The announcement of the proposed EIS/EIR assumes it is legal in California (1) to sell water as a commodity, (2) to sell water from the Central Valley Project (CVP), (3) to declare that an annual allotment is excessive and can be made available for sale, (4) to avoid returning water declared excess to the county of origin, but rather sell it to another entity, (5) to engage in water transfer between agencies and (6) that water from Trinity County may be used in ways other than originally presented when Trinity Dam was constructed.

1. Limiting preparation of this EIS/EIR to the two agencies mentioned above is unacceptable. Landowners living in the counties from which the water originates must be represented. The Trinity Public Utilities District, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors, as well as private landowners shall have direct involvement in preparation of this document.

2. In proposing such an EIS/EIR, water is treated as a commodity. Ownership of water for sale must include those with land over which the water would flow if no man-made effort to move the water was made. The EIS/EIR needs to include payment to landowners in counties of origin.

3. Use of natural resources from one area in another geographic area must result in compensation for those resources to the area of origin. If water agencies in northern California believe they have excess water to sell, the sale of that water will benefit those in the counties from which the water originated. The water agency may only retain overhead costs.
4. No water transfer from a northern California water agency may occur if surface water available to landowners whose land adjoins the Trinity River and the South Fork of the Trinity are limited in any way.
5. No water transfer from a northern California water agency may occur until enough water flows in the Trinity River to wash all gravel, infused mechanically by the Trinity River Restoration Program, from the deep river holes.
6. No water transfer from a northern California water agency may occur unless all landowners owning river front property along the Trinity and the South Fork of the Trinity are allowed to pump water from the Trinity River. No local, State or Federal agency may restrict pumping of water because there is not enough water (for fisheries or any other reason).
7. No water transferred from a northern California water agency may be used to for nonessential uses such watering landscapes, swimming pools or recreation. Also, any household which wishes to use northern California water away from its origin or natural flow must employ all available water conservation methods and limit water use to a strict per person/per day allotment.
8. Water (in liquid, solid, or vapor form) is difficult to quantify. The tools used to declare there is excess need to be reviewed in the EIS/EIR.
9. Transfer of water through the CVP and away from the county of origin has a detrimental effect on the amount of surface and ground water available for the Trinity River, for its fisheries, vegetation and wildlife, special status species, as well its geology and soils. Some of these data of these might be available from the Trinity River Restoration Program; however, it is unlikely they have all the data needed to prepare the proposed EIR/EIS. Please do not submit the proposed EIR/EIS for certification until these impacts have been fully analyzed.
10. Transfer of water away from its origin and natural flow changes the climate, water quality, and creates economic benefit for people not in the area of water origin and natural flow. Decreasing the environmental quality and socioeconomic benefits to the area where the water originates and naturally flows, to create benefit in another area of California is not acceptable.
11. Transporting water through the CVP and away from the Trinity River was decided prior to EIS/EIR and valuation of environmental justice. Now is the time conduct the examination fully. The EIS/EIR need not be certified if long-term water transfer continues to degrade the county of water origin in any way.
12. The County of Trinity needs legal and academic representation in California water discussions, and for the proposed long-term water transfer program. Environmental Justice will be achieved, in part, when this County is able to expend the same amount of money on water issues, as do other counties in the State of California.

Sincerely,
Gail Goodyear

Gail Goodyear

P.O. Box 1120
Weaverville, CA 96093

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Veronese, Gina
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:21 AM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: Comments on: Proposed North to South water transfers

-----Original Message-----

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 5:57 PM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina; Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: Fw: Comments on: Proposed North to South water transfers

Comment for record.

----- Original Message -----

From: Steven Hammond <schammond@earthlink.net>
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Sent: Sun Feb 27 10:48:33 2011
Subject: Comments on: Proposed North to South water transfers

Following are my comments about the proposed North to South water transfers.

I am a homeowner and long-time resident of Chico, CA, in Butte County. I am extremely concerned and against the proposed water transfers that would result in tapping the aquifer in this area, with the potential to have devastating effects all over this region.

A previous water transfer in 1994 moved ONE-SIXTH the annual amount proposed - and both deep and shallow agricultural wells in this area ran dry. Farmers and families affected were essentially told that they had no proof that the tapping the aquifer for water transfer was the cause - even though common sense reveals the obvious answer. This is only one example that illustrates why the current proposal is terribly flawed.

* No comprehensive environmental impact review has been done - which violates the National Environmental Protection Act.

In order to even consider any North-South transfers like those in the current proposal, a longitudinal study over multiple years needs to be completed, in order to provide scientific data and analysis of groundwater quantity, recharge rates, natural recharge locations and amounts, conditions, comprehensive monitoring, and disclosure of impacts.

* Another key problem with the proposal is that alternatives for those desiring this water have not been adequately utilized. The idea that the taking of this water out of our area would be to fulfill a "need," and therefore justified, is merely a perception that needs careful examination.

Alternatives should include more serious conservation efforts, for example fallowing of contaminated farmlands in the Central/South Valley, and all forms of water rationing and efficient usage. Also, "outside the box" thinking about water provision through new technologies (such as de-salinization, etc.), should be taken seriously.

* My concerns as a local citizen include items that would have a direct impact on my life:

Fluctuating groundwater in Chico and Butte County could seriously impact domestic wells via heavy metals and non-aqueous fluids contamination - there are numerous hazardous waste plumes

in Butte County that would very likely migrate more rapidly and move the pollutants into different strata.

Chico is a city known for it's lovely canopy of mature trees. It is not at all outside the realm of possibility that if groundwater levels were to drop catastrophically, that there could be a massive "die-off" of these beautiful old trees which are in many ways at the heart of this community. Those who talk of mitigation need to be reminded that there is no way to "mitigate" such an outcome.

At the Public Scoping Meeting I attended in Chico January 11, 2011, there were at least 150 local people in attendance - many of whom spoke passionately against these proposed transfers which would result in sucking large amounts of water out of our local aquifer. I urge you to the right thing - either withdraw the proposal entirely, or plan for the kind of careful longitudinal environmental review which will surely reveal that the potential negative impacts in this area are too great to continue with this idea. Any plan that could ruin this region's water supply is just plain wrong!

Steven Hammond
Chico, California

Brad Hubbard,
Bureau of Reclamation,
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento CA 95825,
bhubbard@usbr.gov
fax 916-978-5290

Dear Brad Hubbard,

The following is my scoping comments for the Long-Term North to South Water Transfers. There are many concerns about transferring such large amounts of water. The conditions of the area of origin for any "transferred" water should be taken into account. Examples include; General Plans are being developed anticipating growth in the northern areas that are cited in the scoping presentation as potential areas that the transfers could originate from. How will transfers affect this anticipated growth in these areas and the health of the aquifer and surface water system? Sound scientific data and analysis of the Sacramento Valley aquifer quantity, and recharge areas should be examined. This should be cross-referenced with areas plans for future growth and development. Will General Plan build outs over the next 20 years be affecting those recharge areas? What are the current cone of depressions in the aquifer under northern areas dependant on ground water? Natural recharge areas and amounts need to be identified, monitored, and made available to the public.

With the environmental review, when impacts are identified they should be accompanied with mitigation and monitoring plans, that can also be commented on by the public during the comment period. There should be a clear project definition as well as an explanation for what the project is needed and will be used for. The willing buyers should be completely honest with what exactly the water will be used for. When and if any water transfers do occur, they should only be for the uses of drinking water, sustainable agriculture, and restoration of water ways in these dry, arid regions. I've recently read that water from the California State Water project is being used for oil production in West Kern's Water District's water and that as much as 83% of it is being used for oil production. There is no reason that the state should ruin the northern water systems for short term gain by a select few.

The long term impacts on public health and safety must be analyzed as well as the effects on the places of origin. For the record, during the drought in the summer of 2009, the Mua family, who farms here at the GRUB Cooperatives well went dry. There is a 30-35 foot well that is fed by an underground spring. We had to hook them up to the other well on the land to ensure that their crops did not die and that they could make a living that summer. (Hacking, Heather. "Well-wishers". Enterprise Record [Chico, CA] 08,09,2009 (A1, A6.) This March the GRUB Cooperative will be installing a private well monitoring system to learn more and to be actively engaged. There are 3 full-time farmers who operate a 80 member C.S.A. program at GRUB and the Cooperative also strives to have relationships with local farmers and food producers and to be an educational resource for the community. Chico residents are completely dependent on groundwater for our drinking water, agricultural, and urban operations.

It is extremely important that independent well monitoring systems be included in the monitoring of the health of northern water systems. We are extremely concerned for our communities health and economic well being.

Please let me know if you have questions, or correspondence and answers to my questions.

Thank you.

Desiree' Hatton
Assitant Advocacy Director
Butte Environmental Council
GRUB Cooperative

February 26, 2011

Brad Hubbard
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

We are writing in regards to your request for comments on the scope of the Long-Term Water Transfer Program.

We are graduate students in the Professional Science Master's Program for Environmental Science at California State University, Chico.

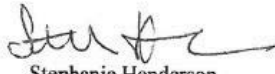
We are concerned that the Long-Term Water Transfer Program will significantly attenuate the ecological health of watersheds in the North Sacramento Valley. Specifically, we are concerned that the continued and prolonged groundwater substitution practices will overdraft the Tuscan Aquifer. There is great uncertainty as to the amount and rate at which water can be extracted from the aquifer without negatively impacting its functionality and persistence—which are crucial factors in maintaining watershed health. We urge the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) to include in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scientific data assessing the groundwater quantity, recharge rates, natural recharge locations and amounts, and hydrologic conditions of the Sacramento Valley. We are especially interested in data that demonstrates the Tuscan Aquifer is not presently overdrawn and not threatened to be overdrawn given the current and projected population's water needs. Unbiased environmental monitoring results will provide the information necessary to make educated and constructive decisions regarding the risks and benefits of long-term water transfers.

We are also concerned that the changing climate may rapidly alter water needs as well as hydrological processes across the state. We strongly encourage a significant portion of the EIR to consider the potential and various impacts climate change may have on the North State watershed's hydrologic processes, including groundwater recharge rates and recharge locations. The Long-Term Water Transfer Program Plan must contain a sustained monitoring strategy to assess changes in real-time and contingency plans supported by scientific data for various scenarios that may arise throughout the project's lifespan.

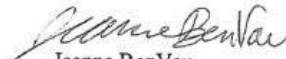
Lastly, we urge Reclamation and SLDMWA to thoroughly explain and evaluate the need for the project in the EIR. We seek a comprehensive and broad range of alternatives. Our understanding of California's watersheds, ecological health, and public water needs led to our conclusion that any long-term water transfer program is unnecessary. The proposed water transfer program is inherently harmful to watersheds in the North State. We would like to see Reclamation and SLDMWA go forward with water conservation plans, such as water reuse and water capture, before considering extreme large-scale water transfers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Henderson
Yuba City, CA



Jeanne BenVau
San Diego, CA



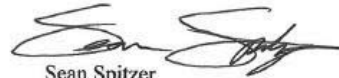
Christopher Radford
Chico, CA



Teresa Bhardwaj
Chico, CA



Kelly Miller
Stockton, CA



Sean Spitzer
Sacramento, CA

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Buckman, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 1:15 PM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: North-to-South Long Term Water Transfers

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 9:51 AM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina
Cc: Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: FW: North-to-South Long Term Water Transfers

[More scoping comments...](#)

From: Robin Huffman [mailto:rafh@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2010 11:08 AM
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Cc: Paul Gosselin; Vickie Newlin
Subject: North-to-South Long Term Water Transfers

Please accept this entire e-mail as a re-submission for the record. I've made a few corrections below from the note I sent a few minutes ago.

How will the transfer program protect the North Valley from desertification and from other impacts from "willing sellers" transferring too much water? The incentive to profit from water sales is a disincentive to protect the environment and the relatively shallow wells that so many North Valley residents depend on for their water.

Another consideration is the serious over-allocation of water rights (i.e., the paper water that doesn't necessarily exist). How does the transfer program address this issue?

I would appreciate receiving a reply at your earliest convenience. BEC appreciates that the Bureau has done an EIS/EIR and surely wishes for everyone to have sufficient water via this proposed program. A viable program is certainly needed over what we have now, and while BEC is taking a strong line, we want the most sustainable balance possible – economically, environmentally, energy and social equity wise – for California's water resources.

To: 'bhubbard@usbr.gov'
Subject: North-to-South Long Term Water Transfers

Mr. Hubbard,

This is a short note for inclusion in the record with the environmental document, the EIS/EIR on the proposed water transfers from the North Valley of California from 2012 through 2022.

Butte Environmental Council is very concerned about the proposed long-term North-to-South Water Transfers, particularly the allowance for groundwater substitution in the plan.

Using deep wells, such as private irrigation districts have, for North-South transfers is very disturbing. The connections of the upper and lower aquifers are not well known, and yet intuitively all know that they are connected. Transferring too

much water will create two deserts. Rather than alleviating the Southern California desert, the transfers will negatively affect the ecosystems in Northern California.

The alternative is for Southern California to change the way they do agriculture and the way they manage their current water supply. Northern California is also growing, and there is not enough water to share more with Southern California. The only reason our aquifers in the North Valley are not already depleted is because of the use of surface water, traditionally from the Sacramento River (now dammed) and the Feather Rivers (now dammed).

Taking more water from Northern California will not solve Southern California's problems; instead, it will desertify the Sacramento Valley and further aggravate the biology of rivers and streams that feed the rivers. Find other solutions, such as Southern California living within the watershed of the San Joaquin Valley. This is the only solution given the rising populations everywhere and the fact that we need to be self-sufficient with our food supply as we head into the near future.

The long term North-South water transfer program is a very bad idea for everyone in California. Allowing groundwater substitution in the program is especially egregious and should be eliminated.

What protections are built into the water transfer plan to protect North State farmers, the agricultural industry, residents, and the environment from "willing sellers" transferring too much water?

Robin Huffman
Advocacy Director
Butte Environmental Council
(530) 891-6424
rhuffman@becprotects.org



LONG-TERM NORTH TO SOUTH WATER TRANSFERS EIS/EIR COMMENT SHEET

There are several options to provide written comments. You can provide your written comments by turning in this form at the scoping meeting. You may also e-mail your comments directly to bhubbard@usbr.gov or frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org with the subject line "Long-Term North to South Water Transfers" or mail this form to the Bureau of Reclamation (mailing address is on the back of this card). Whatever method you choose, please note that all written comments must be received by **5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on February 28, 2011.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL COMMENTS BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Name: Sarah Jensen

Organization (If applicable): _____

Address: 10 Tilden Lane Chico CA 95928

Phone: () 530-345-9516

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: 1-14-11

Classification	ENV 6.00
Project	214
Control No.	11005528
Folder I.D.	1148370
Date Input & Initials	1-24-2011 B

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
JAN 24 2011		
CODE	ACTION	SURNAME & DATE
410	✓	

Comment: First, I need to comment on the necessity of such thick, glossy meeting materials. Who paid for these? It shows that wastefulness of resources, rather than conservation, is prevalent in organizations trying to make up for their own excesses by grabbing the resources of others.

Second, I am firmly against the transfer of water to a desert of others' making. There is no reason for planting permanent crops, ie almonds, in a region that does not have the resources, ie water, to support them. The waste entailed in transferring water from the north to support the idiocies of these decisions would be immoral to say the least. I feel sorry for those who were misled by greed or others' to make such unsound decisions, but we in the north should not have to get them out of their situation. I will never support this type of transfer!

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Veronese, Gina
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 6:01 PM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: Water Transfers from Northern Calif. to Southern Calif.

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 4:17 PM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina; Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: FW: Water Transfers from Northern Calif. to Southern Calif.

[Comment for record.](#)

From: Karen Laslo [mailto:Laz@chiconet.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 11:46 AM
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Subject: Water Transfers from Northern Calif. to Southern Calif.

February 23, 2011

To: Mr. Brad Hubbard

Bureau of Reclamation

2800 Cottage Way, MP-410

Sacramento, CA 95825

From: Karen Laslo

468 E. Sacramento Ave.

Chico, CA 95926

laz@chiconet.com

530-896-1168

Dear Mr. Hubbard,

I am writing to you because I wish to comment on the proposed water transfers from northern California, and specifically the Sacramento Valley where I live, to southern California.

As I understand it, the amount of water proposed for transferring is 600,00 acre-feet of water, per year, for ten years. That is *a lot* of water and, therefore, much thought and consideration about how water transfers will affect our region

should go into a plan before any water sales are allowed to occur. I assume you will *have* a detailed mitigation and monitoring plan, along with an environmental review. I would like to see this plan made available to the public so that we may comment on it. We who will be affected by water transfers have the right to know *who* is willing to sell their water, for how much money and to whom it was sold.

In advance of any water sales, I ask the Bureau of Reclamation to provide us with real scientific statistics and analysis of the Sacramento Valley's groundwater quantity, recharge rates, locations of natural recharge, the amounts of recharge, how the monitoring will be done and monitoring results.

I am greatly concerned about the safety of our drinking water. I want you to *thoroughly* analyze the risks to the public's health and safety. It's well known that there are many hazardous plumes in Chico's groundwater and in Butte County, overall. These toxic plumes have the potential to move more rapidly and become more concentrated if increased groundwater pumping occurs. These dangerous chemicals will undoubtedly contaminate peoples' drinking water from their domestic wells and Chico's city wells too.

The beautiful and valuable environment of the Sacramento Valley (along with public health) is of primary concern to me. I want to know exactly how these water transfers will affect our watersheds, streams and rivers before any water sales are allowed to occur. I want to know exactly how the loss of surface and groundwater will affect our Valley Oaks. I've seen the impacts of subsidence on other lands where groundwater has been excessively pumped and I don't want that to happen here. How will fish and other aquatic species, that need adequate amounts of fresh, clean water for their existence, fare if the groundwater is lowered so much that our above ground streams disappear? I want to know exactly how these sales will affect the small family farmers in our valley who don't have the deep wells that agribusinesses have. How will they survive, economically, if the groundwater is lowered so much that their shallower wells cannot reach the water? In Chico, the "buy local" movement is quite strong and we fully support our small family farmers who grow our food for us. We do not want them to have their wells run dry like so many did during the last water sales.

I want a thorough analysis of why this project is needed in the first place. And have you investigated alternatives to water sales for meeting southern California's needs? Stricter conservation of the water they already have in the south should be expanded before taking more from the north. Planting more trees helps to conserve groundwater and cleanses the air.

Using valuable irrigation water on polluted lands in the San Joaquin Valley must stop. And I heard the following appalling information on KCHO's program, Living On Earth, (February 2011, loe.org/shows/shows.htm?programID-P13-00006#feature5)

"... About 83 percent of the West Kern Water District's water," which is about 31,000 acre-feet. So, in this parched, dry region, about 83 percent of the water being delivered through the California aqueduct, through one water district alone, is being given to oil companies for steam-flooding operations."

I think that if the average Californian knew how greedy oil companies are using one of our most precious natural resources to steam oil from tar sands in the San Joaquin Valley they would be as outraged as I am. These wasteful practices must be stopped immediately.

Lastly, water is needed by all living things, not just we humans. It should not be used as a commodity, to be bought and sold. As a Zen Buddhist I believe that we humans must not use more than our share of the Earth's natural resources. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to use

the water that we have wisely and not waste a drop of it.

Sincerely,

Karen Laslo

“Preserve well, for you now have, this is all.” Tozan Ryokai, Zen teacher



LONG-TERM NORTH TO SOUTH WATER TRANSFERS EIS/EIR COMMENT SHEET

There are several options to provide written comments. You can provide your written comments by turning in this form at the scoping meeting. You may also e-mail your comments directly to bhubbard@usbr.gov or frances.mizuno@sldmwa.org with the subject line "Long-Term North to South Water Transfers" or mail this form to the Bureau of Reclamation (mailing address is on the back of this card). Whatever method you choose, please note that all written comments must be received by **5:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on February 28, 2011.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL COMMENTS BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Name:

Mrs. Ira and Teresita LaTour

Organization (If applicable):

(Retired) Retired College Professor and Broker

Address:

487 Gaseo Companeros

Phone:

530 891-0770

Fax:

() 530-345-9644

E-mail:

too much e-mail already

Date:

Jan. 14, 2011

Comment:

My husband and I attended the "scoping" meeting at the Masonic Lodge a few miles ago in Chico. We went because in 2009, we had to deepen our home well in Chico which was not cheap.

After listening to the comments made by the people from our Chico, Glenn and Tehama areas we are convinced that no transfer of our water should ever be considered. It appears that any transfer would be a very risky proposition for our area. Southern California missed their water resources and we do not want that tragedy to happen here.

*(copy)
Teresita LaTour*

ANN VANDER LINDEN

P.O. Box 503
Magalia, CA 95954
530.873.4154
ann.v@att.net



Tuesday, March 01, 2011

*Long-Term North to South Water Transfers EIS/EIR
Brad Hubbard
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825*

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

*The Bureau of Reclamation's aggressive 10-year plan does not take into consideration the consequences the damage such a project will cause. Such as: the decrease of flow of our rivers and streams, increased water temperatures associated with increased ground water pumping, refer to data at Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy at: **www.buttecreekwatershed.org**, increased contamination of our ground water with potential hazards to public health and safety, impacts on all ground water users, as well as wildlife - especially salmon and other dependent animal species.*

This project is unreasonable and disproportionate for Northern California. It threatens land owners and appears biased. An explanation for the need of the Project should be provided by the Bureau of Reclamation, and should include scientific data and analysis of Sacramento Valley groundwater quantity, recharge rates, natural recharge locations and amounts, conditions, monitoring, and monitoring results. Mitigation and monitoring plans should be provided with the environmental review, so it is available for public review and comment.

*The potential buyers in the south [San Joaquin Valley] have already demonstrated water-wasteful practices; and the bureau should thoroughly analyze the potential impacts where the water originates [in Northern California]. The proposed fluctuation of groundwater may seriously impact domestic well purity; concentrating heavy metals and non-aqueous fluids contamination. Additionally, with increased groundwater pumping, there are numerous hazardous waste plumes in Butte County that would migrate more rapidly and potentially move the pollutants into deeper strata. Refer to information from Butte Environmental Council at **www.becet.org**.*

I strongly object to the proposed water-transfer of 600,000 acre feet of water per year that the Project could deliver, and will stand with my neighbors and fellow citizens who are determined to defend the region's water supplies.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Vander Linden

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Veronese, Gina
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 11:19 AM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: Water Sale/Transfer

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 9:55 AM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina; Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: Fw: Water Sale/Transfer

[Comment for record.](#)

From: John MacTavish <john.mactavish@lpl.com>
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Sent: Fri Feb 25 10:46:02 2011
Subject: Water Sale/Transfer

I have real concerns over the wisdom of sending surface water south and drawing more groundwater to replace what is sold.

How will the impact on Northern California groundwater be calculated or determined if the transfer results in the need to replace sold water with groundwater. Is there valid proof of the process being used to calculate the impact? If so would you please site the source?

How much water in dollar terms is Mendota water district willing to spend to buy this water? What has been bought and at what cost over the past twenty years? Who are the ultimate sellers and the buyers? If the water districts sell their water use rights and pull groundwater (everyone's water rights) how much do they profit?

Thank you for your response.

John MacTavish

3307 Kennedy Ave

Chico CA 95973

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Veronese, Gina
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:21 AM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: Water transfer scoping comments

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 5:59 PM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina; Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: Fw: Water transfer scoping comments

[Comment for record.](#)

From: Danny Margoles <dannymargoles@gmail.com>
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Sent: Sun Feb 27 13:25:19 2011
Subject: Water transfer scoping comments

Dear Brad Hubbard,

Roughly a month ago I attended the meeting in Chico about water transfers and was thoroughly impressed. You skillfully presented one of the most incoherent, manipulative, deceitful, and boring presentations I have ever attended. I had no clue about any of the specifics on the project (no), plant (no), program (no), collusion. I think the scheme to rid northern California of its excessive(?) water supply makes a lot of sense for agribusiness in southern CA. I am not from the area, but found my way into the meeting with a friend who is. The presentation that I observed really made me wonder whether Brad or any of the others knew any more about what they were talking about than I did. Seriously, how do you plan to complete an EIS/R without being able to explicitly describe the scheme.

Why was the issue of climate change never brought up? Please explicitly describe how a changed future climate could influence water resources in both northern and southern California. How will these transfers affect groundwater levels? Your response to this question should be based on a rigorous and sound assessment of long-term groundwater data, millennial-length historic climate patterns, and future demand and climate forecasts. The EIS/R should explicitly address the potential benefit of putting southern CA cropland out of production instead of doing these water transfers. I understand that the scoping process occurs prior to developing some of the scheme's specifics, yet I was truly shocked at the lack of basic information both presented and apparently understood by the panel. Please be honest about the science. It was obvious that the vast majority of people in the scoping meeting in Chico were against the scheme; the people had important questions that need to be truthfully answered. It is sad to me that I have very little confidence that the final decision will be based on good ecological and social ideals.

Sincerely,

Danny Margoles

Greene, Alicia M.

From: Veronese, Gina
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:21 AM
To: Greene, Alicia M.
Subject: FW: Long-Term North to South Water Transfers

From: Hubbard, Bradley C [mailto:BHubbard@usbr.gov]
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 6:00 PM
To: Buckman, Carolyn; Veronese, Gina; Hatleberg, Shelly
Subject: Fw: Long-Term North to South Water Transfers

[Comment for record.](#)

From: O. J. McMillan <ojgamc@pacbell.net>
To: Hubbard, Bradley C
Cc: info@aqualliance.net <info@aqualliance.net>
Sent: Sun Feb 27 14:30:20 2011
Subject: Long-Term North to South Water Transfers

Although there is no detail yet available on the proposed "Project," I am submitting a formal Comment to express my alarm about what I understand that Project to be. I am a citizen of Chico:

O. J. McMillan
2040 Vallombrosa Ave
Chico, CA 95926
530.345.7003

My wife and I moved to Chico about seven and a half years ago, lured here in no small part by the natural beauty of the area. Our outdoor activities are very important to us, including hiking and bird watching, and they invariably involve the rivers, creeks, and streams which are so integral to that natural beauty and which interact in a fundamental way with the aquifer(s). Our drinking water comes from the California Water Service Company via pumping from the aquifer. So it is natural for us to be concerned about a Project which could impact in a major negative way our groundwater supply. Over the years, we have attended many informational meetings on groundwater issues put on by Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Bureau, Butte Environmental Council, the League of Women Voters, and others, so we understand how poorly the aquifer is understood and how important its maintenance is to us.

We also understand there are powerful economic forces at work to secure more of the water from the Northstate to support the population and agriculture of the southern parts of California. The population of Southern California is a presumably immutable fact, and it is also a fact that they need water – it is fortunate that impressive water conservation measures have been undertaken there to mitigate somewhat the impact of that population. A bigger factor as far as water is concerned is the factory agriculture in Southern California, which in many cases involves crops which are largely inappropriate for the climate there. The clamor for more water from the north to support this agriculture would, in a rational world, be turned towards a focus on helping transition our culture to consumption of locally produced crops and towards growing crops that better fit the local climate.

But as for the proposed Project to transfer surface water over 10 years and "make that up" by increasing pumping from the aquifer: The environmental review for the Project must include a comprehensive monitoring and mitigation plan for the inevitable adverse impacts of increased groundwater removal, and it must be available for public review and comment in a timely manner. Prior to proceeding, the Bureau should also explain how the Project will not cause irreversible subsidence, will not adversely impact existing wells by lowering the water table and introducing contaminants, will not adversely affect flows in rivers, streams, and creeks, will not be harmful to fish and other aquatic species, and why instead of enabling this water transfer, the Project shouldn't involve something that would actually improve the water situation.

The Bureau is seemingly trying to defuse potential Northstate public outrage by emphasizing that it is merely trying to facilitate *voluntary* water transfers from “willing sellers” to willing buyers. The notion that current holders of water rights *own* Northstate water and can pillage the aquifer to make a profit on surface water just beggars belief. A Federal Project should rather be facilitating a future where sustainable practices were the rule, rather than a distant dream.

LONG-TERM NORTH TO SOUTH WATER TRANSFERS EIS/EIR COMMENT SHEET

Name: Dale Melville (Manager-Engineer for Dudley Ridge Water District)

Organizations: Representing Dudley Ridge Water District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, Lost Hills Water District, Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa Water Storage District

Address: Dudley Ridge Water District, 286 W. Cromwell Ave., Fresno, CA 93711-6162

Phone: 559-449-2700 x102

Fax: 559-449-2715

E-mail: dmelville@ppeng.com

Date: February 15, 2011

Comment: We are requesting that the multi-year EIS/EIR for north to south transfers include fallowing and groundwater substitution of pasture lands as an allowable method for developing conserved water that could be transferred south of the Delta.

We understand that specific guidelines for determining the consumptive use from pasture lands, although currently being developed, have not been adopted as of this date. However, for the following reasons we believe it is incumbent on the USBR to concur with our request:

- It is highly probable that an acceptable determination of consumptive use for various conditions of pasture land will have been developed within the 10-year period proposed in the EIS/EIR...likely early within the 10-year scope of the water transfer period;
- Transfers from fallowed pasture land would have less economic impacts on local and regional resources compared to fallowing most other crops (often, grazing livestock can be moved to slightly more concentrated populations in other fields to allow all or a portion of the original field to be fallowed, without reducing the “product”, jobs, or revenue to the regional economy);
- Transfers from fallowed pasture land would have less environmental impacts on local and regional resources than fallowing other types of crops (farming operations for fallowing pasture land would require less, if any, disking, herbicide treatments, land leveling, cultivation prior to re-planting, and similar resource-intensive operations);
- At a minimum, the EIS/EIR should not discriminate as to the type of land being fallowed; it should be clear that any crop, including irrigated pasture, could be fallowed under this transfer proposal subject to USBR/DWR accepted consumptive use values at the time the water is transferred.

So that the maximum impacts can be evaluated in the EIS/EIR, we offer the following references to the extent it provides an basis for determining the potential range impacts. However, we understand that the evaluation in progress within the USBR has significantly more detail on this subject and that the USBR's preliminary data would likely provide the best basis for evaluating potential impacts related to developing water from irrigated pasture. However, based on an assumed cap of 30,000 acre-feet¹ ("af") being developed from fallowing irrigated pasture and using a lower end of the consumptive use at 42 in/y (3.5 af/ac) and up to 8,570 acres of pasture land could be utilized.

1. Consumptive use reports from ITRC website (www.itrc.org/etdata/etmain.htm) based on ET_c for surface irrigation schedules for various DWR CIMIS ET_o zones in the area of Tehama, Trinity, and Shasta Counties.

DWR CIMIS ZONE	County generally represented by zone	Water Year Type (inches/year)		
		Typical	Wet	Dry
10	Tehama	48.09	42.81	47.92
13	Trinity	46.32	42.84	47.92
14	Shasta	43.43	41.58	39.36
	Average	45.95	42.41	45.07

2. Pasture acreage in Tehama, Trinity, and Shasta Counties (source: DWR website)
 - Tehama County (1999 data) - 33,467 acres
 - Trinity County (1996 data) - 2,378 acres
 - Shasta County (1995 data) - 47,901 acres

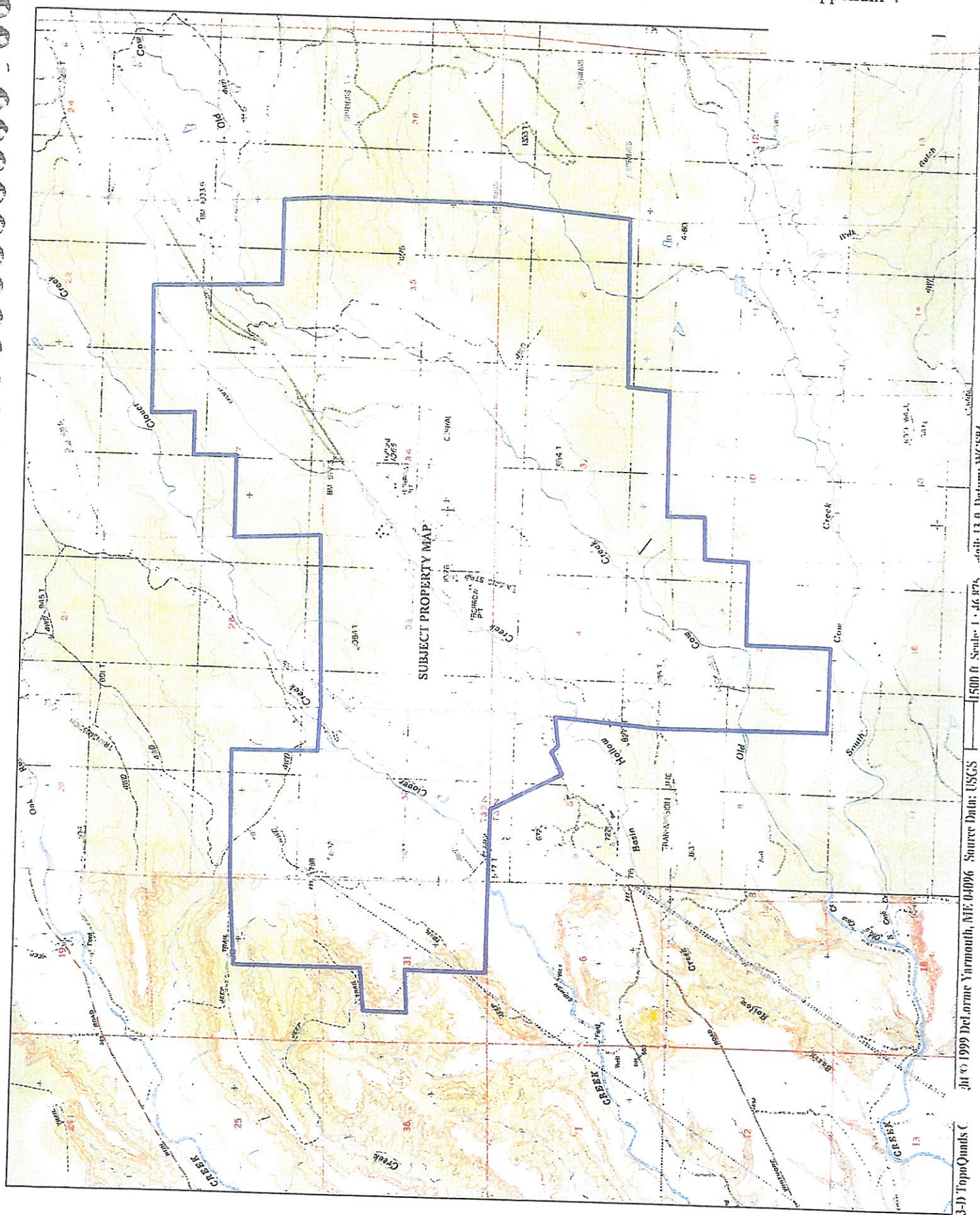
If the USBR's direction for the EIR/EIS is to focus on specific sources for transferred water, we are requesting that the McArthur lands located near Millville in Shasta County be included in the document. Specifically, the lands would consist of up to 1,100 acres of McArthur family land irrigated from Cow Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento River. The water is pre-1914 and was adjudicated in Shasta County under Case No. 38577 (August 25, 1969). A map of the entire Millville property (JS Ranch) owned by the McArthur family is attached.

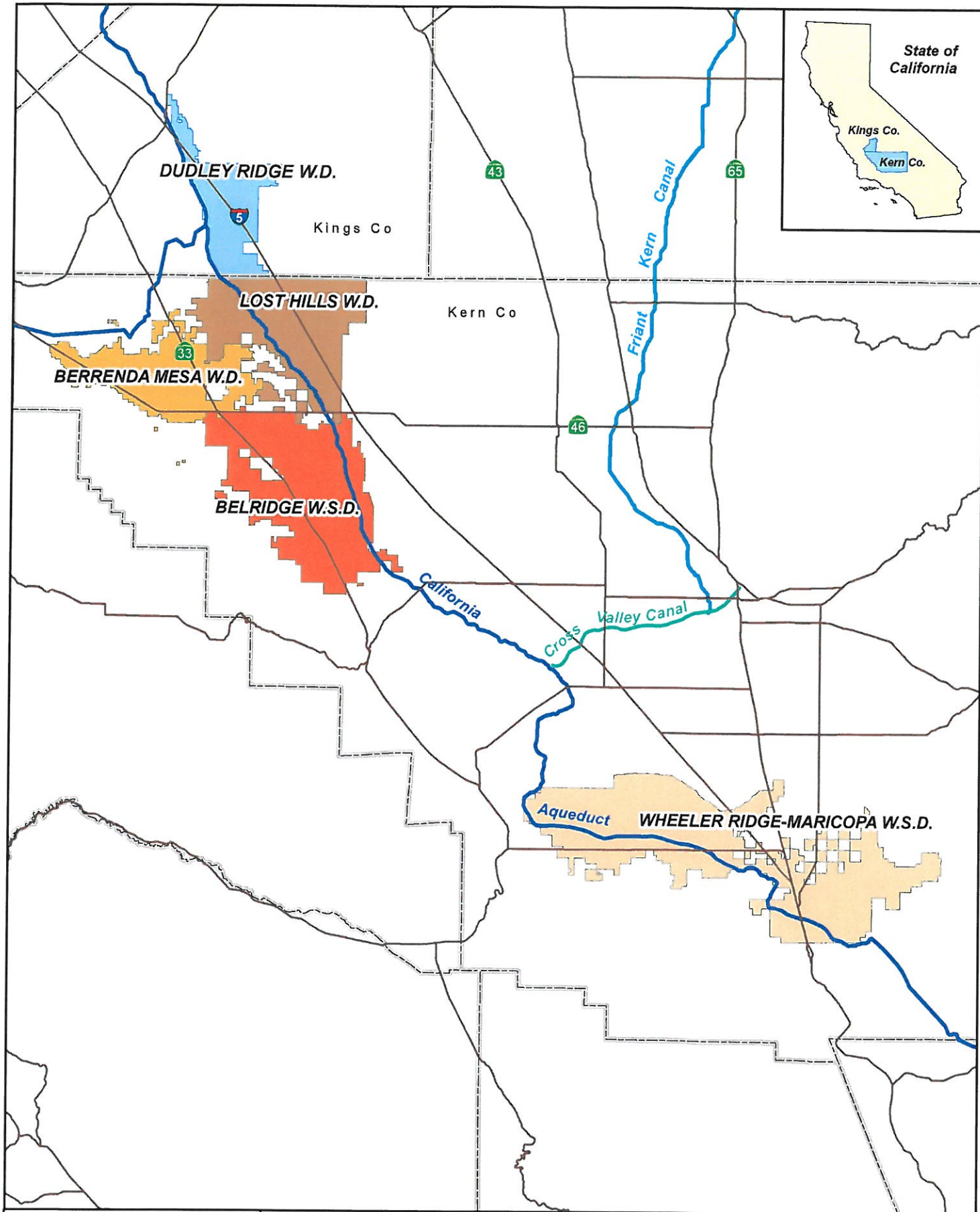
Similar to the comments submitted to Brad Hubbard via email on 1/14/2011 relating to the McArthur Fall River water, this comment requests that the five water districts noted in "Organizations" above, should be included in the EIS/EIR as an area that could receive

¹ An assumed cap of 30,000 af/y relates to 20% of the 150,000 af/y

transferred water. A map of those districts was previously submitted to Brad Hubbard, but is provided again as an attachment to these comments.

Attachments: as stated (map of JS Ranch; map of the five Westside SWP districts)





0 5 10 Miles



EST. 1968

PROVOST & PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP

An Employee Owned Company

286 W. Cromwell Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711-6162
(559) 449-2700

**Westside Districts
Regional Map**

LONG-TERM NORTH TO SOUTH WATER TRANSFERS EIS/EIR COMMENT SHEET

Name: Dale Melville (Manager-Engineer for Dudley Ridge Water District)

Organizations: Representing Dudley Ridge Water District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Belridge Water Storage District, Lost Hills Water District, Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa Water Storage District

Address: Dudley Ridge Water District, 286 W. Cromwell Ave., Fresno, CA 93711-6162

Phone: 559-449-2700 x102

Fax: 559-449-2715

E-mail: dmelville@ppeng.com

Date: February 16, 2011

Comment: We are requesting that the multi-year EIS/EIR for north to south transfers include the comments provided to the USBR in our email of January 14, 2011. Specifically, to include the McArthur transfer (Fall River water) in your proposed EIS/EIS. This would also entail expanding the area to receive transferred water to include at a minimum, portions of Kings and Kern Counties. In addition to the McArthur land (map of our five water districts is attached).

Below is a description of the water transfer proposed with George McArthur of McArthur Farms. We have previously provided the USBR this description of the proposed transfer so that USBR could provide a response to the potential of obtaining the Bureau's approval of this request and the items that would need to be completed in the process. Included in this proposed transfer is use of storing non-project water in Lake Shasta with a Warren Act contract to assist in regulation of the pre-1914 water to periods when it can be delivered south through the Delta.

Both McArthur and our district(s) are interested in a multi-year transfer of the water to supplement reduced deliveries on the SWP. Due to the dynamic pumping conditions in the Delta, being able to store the water upstream plays an important role in the viability of being able to regulate the delivery of the water to periods when it can be pumped from the Delta. As shown below, the water would be developed from May-August (north of Shasta); as you are aware, pumping windows are uncertain during these periods and often in any given year.

Source of the proposed transfer water from McArthur Farms

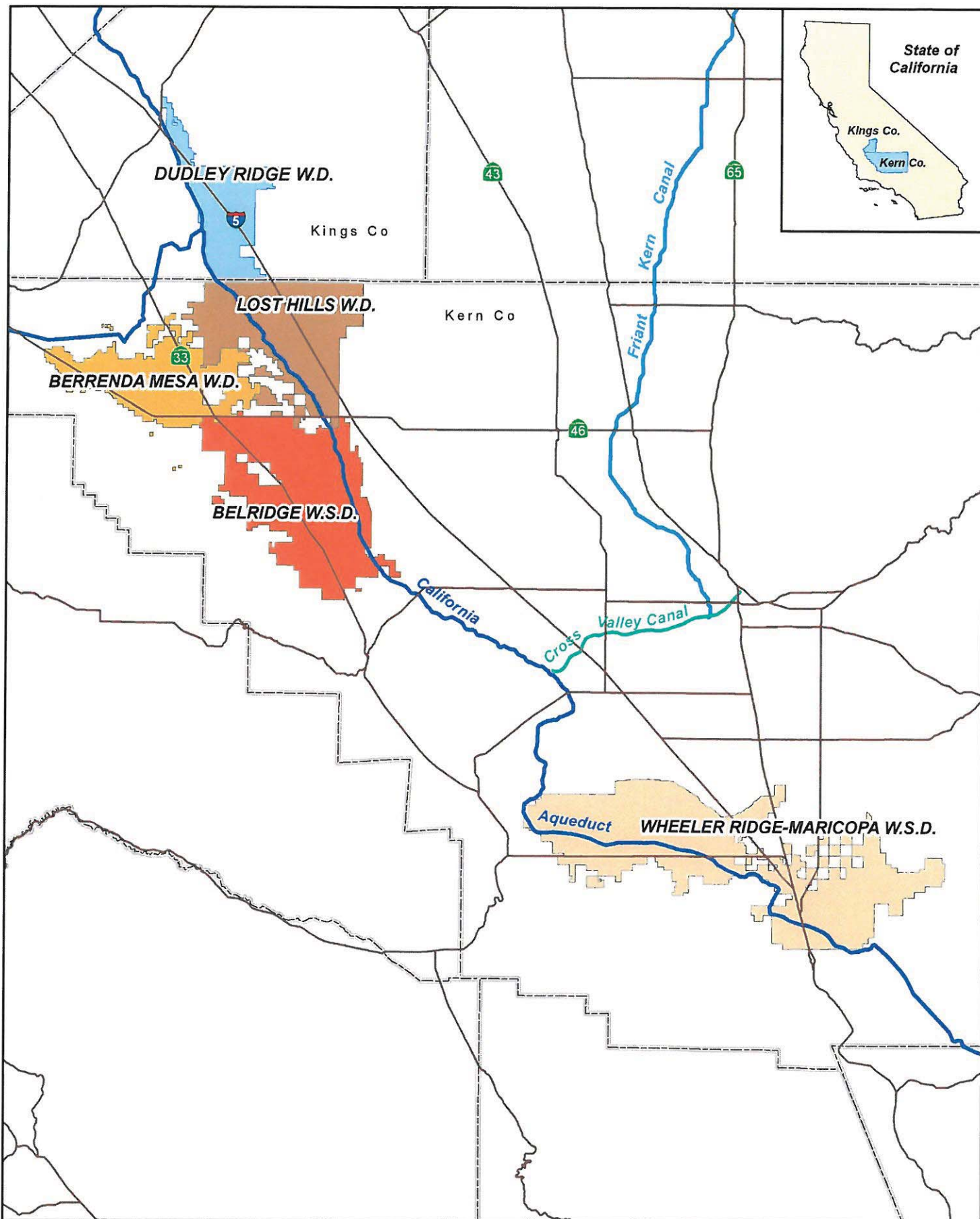
- Property is located near McArthur CA, upstream of Lake Shasta (portions of Sec 1 & 2, T37N, R4E and Sec 7, 17-19, T37N, R5E)
- Land is owned by George and John McArthur
- Land has been farmed for wild rice the last four years
- Propose to fallow 750 acres wild rice and transfer the conserved water
- Consumptive use is approximately 1,700 af/y
- Water is pump out of the Fall River , which deposits into the Pitt River, above Shasta Dam
- Typical water usage time period is May 1 to August 15
- McArthur water right is a pre-1914 right and was confirmed in Case #4292 in May 1928 in Shasta County
- This water was sold and transferred previously in 1992 (to Bella Vista WD)

McArthur has indicated to me that in May 2009, the above water info was reviewed by the USBR and they concurred that McArthur did in fact have the right to transfer this water; DWR has requested McArthur obtain a supplemental opinion from the courts related to their water right before DWR can concur that the water is transferable; McArthur is working on completing that request.

Proposed transfer to Dudley Ridge WD (and 4 other agricultural water districts in the SWP service area)...collectively, "Westside Districts"

- Westside Districts in Kings and Kern Counties are pursuing multi-year water transfers
- McArthur transfer would be for 10 years, with an option to extend for 5 additional years
- McArthur land would not be fallowed for more than 3 successive years (farmed at least 1 in 4 years)
- Conserved water would be conveyed to the Delta, pumped by SWP facilities, and delivered to the Westside Districts
- Due to pumping restrictions in the Delta at the time the conserved water is made available, interim storage is needed upstream of the Delta
- A Warren Act contract for storage in Shasta could accommodate seasonal (within the same year) and yearly (from one year to the next) storage needs until pumping windows are available in the Delta.
 - Westside Districts understand that any stored water would be the first water subject to spill
 - Westside Districts anticipate (albeit minimal) additional stored water in Shasta would have beneficial impacts for Shasta recreation, cold water temperatures for fish, and head for power operations.

Attachments: map of the five Westside SWP districts; map of McArthur's Fall River lands; and regional map showing McArthur lands, Pit River, and Lake Shasta

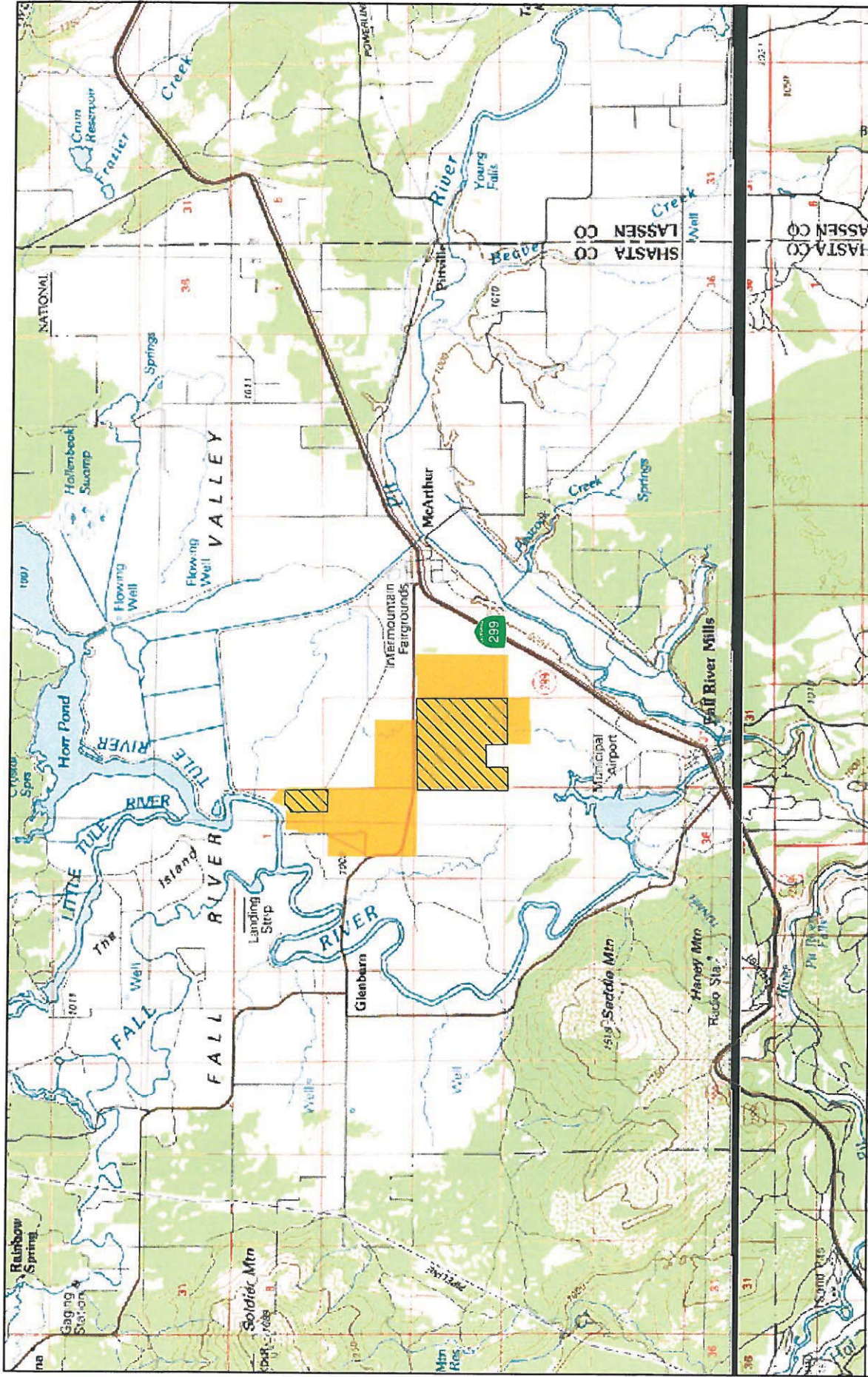


0 5 10 Miles

EST. 1968
PROVOST & PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP
An Employee Owned Company

286 W. Cromwell Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711-6162
(559) 449-2700

Westside Districts
Regional Map



<p>McArthur, CA Lands</p>	<p>Legend</p> <p>Land Proposed for Fallowing</p> <p>McArthur Lands</p>	<p>McArthur, CA Lands</p> <p>(McArthur Ranch)</p> <p>FOR SEC. 7, 17, 18, 19; T37N, R5E</p> <p>FOR SEC. 1 & 2; T37N, R4E</p>
----------------------------------	---	--



PROVOST & PRITCHARD
 CONSULTING GROUP
 An Employee Owned Company

286 W. Cromwell Ave.
 Fresno, CA 93711-6162
 (559) 449-2700

